

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

WILLIAM R. DAVIS, as executor of the  
estate of James W. Davis, Sr.,  
deceased,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHRISTINE M. POFFENBARGER, ET  
AL.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 05-288 (KAJ)

**TRIAL MANAGEMENT ORDER**

Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 16 and unless otherwise ordered by the Court,

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

1. Pretrial Conference and Pretrial Order. The Court's Scheduling Order and Local Rule 16 set out the procedures for preparing, exchanging and filing drafts of the proposed pretrial order. Counsel should expect the Court will look to that draft order when ruling on objections during the trial, when ruling on objections to arguments, and when ruling on objections to the relevance and admissibility of evidence.

a. Issues of Law. Local Rule 16.4(d)(5) provides that each party shall include in the draft order a statement of the issues of law which the party contends remain to be litigated. Counsel should expect that the Court will preclude a party from seeking relief based on claims not in the pleadings and not described in the draft order.

b. Issues of Fact and Expected Proof. Local Rules 16.4(d)(4), (8), (9), and (10) provide that each party shall identify the facts in issue and set out a brief statement of what it intends to prove in support of its claims or defenses. Those

summaries should be sufficient to identify for the Court the essential facts in issue and should fairly put the other party on notice as to what each party expects to prove at trial. Each party should expect the Court to look at these sections in the pretrial order when ruling on the relevance and admissibility of evidence. The Court encourages counsel to serve contention interrogatories early in discovery. Where a party has served contention interrogatories, the responding party should not expect to be able to include in the pretrial order new issues or new facts not fairly disclosed in the answers to those interrogatories.

c. Witnesses. At the pretrial conference the Court may review with counsel the trial schedule, whether or not certain witnesses may need to be subpoenaed, and the expected scope of direct and cross examination for witnesses who may be called by more than one party.

d. Exhibits. Local Rule 16.4(d)(6) provides that counsel should meet before the pretrial conference and mark all exhibits to be admitted into evidence during the trial. To the extent any of the exhibits are objected to, counsel should bring copies of the objected to exhibits to the pretrial conference and be prepared to argue their clients' positions as to the admissibility of such exhibits. On or before the day of trial, counsel should deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a completed AO Form 187 exhibit list for each party.

e. Depositions. Counsel should confer prior to the pretrial conference to determine which testimony will be offered by deposition, to agree on the designations of those portions of the depositions to be offered into evidence, and to identify objections that will need to be ruled on before the deposition is read or admitted into evidence

during trial. Where there are objections that will need to be resolved, counsel should submit the transcript and a summary of the objections to the Court with the draft pretrial order.

f. Opinion Testimony. Counsel should include in the draft pretrial order a brief summary of the opinions to be offered by any witness to be called to offer opinion testimony. To the extent not previously resolved, Counsel should also include in the pretrial order any objections to the qualifications of a witness to offer an opinion. (This is not to be taken as leave for the late filing of *Daubert* motions, which are to be filed with opening briefs no later than the time for filing dispositive motions. See Scheduling Order ¶ 3.d.)

g. Motions *in Limine*. Rather than file motions *in limine*, a party should include in the draft pretrial order a brief summary of any evidentiary or other issue that would otherwise be the subject of a motion *in limine* and include in the summary any case law that party wishes to call to the Court's attention in connection with the matter. The opposing party should include a response of no more than five (5) pages. If more than one party is supporting or opposing an *in limine* request, such support or opposition shall be combined in a single five (5) page submission, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, each party shall be limited to five (5) *in limine* requests. (See Scheduling Order ¶ 12.) To the extent the *in limine* request relates to the admissibility of documents, counsel should bring copies of the documents to the pretrial conference.

## 2. Trial Procedures

a. Trial Schedule. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, counsel should assume the trial schedule will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with breaks at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and with a lunch break for one hour beginning at 12:30 p.m. The Courtroom Deputy will keep a running total of trial time used by counsel. Opening statements and closing arguments shall be included in the total. For depositions, counsel will jointly advise the Courtroom Deputy as to the allocation of time according to the lines of testimony designated by each party.

b. Use of Lectern. Except as otherwise permitted by the Court, counsel should present the opening statement, conduct examination of witnesses, and make the closing argument from the lectern. Counsel should seek leave to approach witnesses or otherwise conduct examination from a location other than the lectern. If it will be necessary to repeatedly approach a witness, counsel need not repeatedly ask permission, once the Court has granted leave to freely approach.

c. Opening Statement. The opening statement is not an argument. Counsel may object to an improper opening statement. Use of demonstrative exhibits is subject to the restrictions in ¶ 2.j, *infra*.

d. Order of Proof. Counsel should assume that the presentation of evidence will follow the pleadings and burdens of proof. Typically, this means that the plaintiff will go first on those issues as to which it has the burden. The defendant will answer as to those issues and open as to the issues as to which it has the burden. The plaintiff may then reply on its claims for relief and answer the defendant's claims. The

defendant may then reply as to its claims. Each party should assume that the reply will be limited to matters it could not have anticipated at the time it opened.

e. Order of Witnesses and Sequestration of Fact Witnesses. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, counsel shall, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the day before trial and on each trial day thereafter, provide notice to opposing counsel of witnesses to be called for live testimony on the following trial day. Fact witnesses shall be sequestered, unless the parties agree to the contrary on the record, or the Court otherwise orders.

f. Examination of Witnesses. Counsel should expect examination of witnesses will be limited to direct, cross examination and re-direct. Cross examination will be limited to the matters covered in direct and impeachment. Re-direct will be limited to matters covered in cross examination.

g. Objections and Side Bar. During the trial, counsel should object by standing, announcing an objection and identifying the rule of evidence relied upon for the objection or a one word signal of the rule, such as "leading" or "relevance". Counsel should not argue objections in front of the witness.

h. Transition Statements. Counsel may make brief transition statements during the trial. The statements should be restricted to identifying a shift from one topic (e.g., liability evidence) to another (e.g., damages evidence).


i. Exhibits. Counsel should consider providing the Court with two copies of exhibits that may be the subject of direct and cross examination.

j. Demonstrative Exhibits. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, demonstrative exhibits are marked for identification but not admitted into evidence.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, demonstrative exhibits may only be used if they have been made available to opposing counsel no later than 24 hours before their proposed use.

k. Testimony by Deposition. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, designated portions of deposition transcripts are read in order from the beginning of the transcript to the end.

l. Post-Trial Briefing. Counsel should include a proposed post-trial briefing schedule in the draft pretrial order.

  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated: October 7, 2005  
Wilmington, Delaware